



**Los Angeles County Department of Health Services
Tuberculosis Control Program**

**2002 Epidemiology Fact Sheet
Total Tuberculosis Cases**

1. According to the World Health Organization, tuberculosis (TB) kills approximately 2 million people each year. The global epidemic is growing and becoming more dangerous. Currently, there are 2 billion people worldwide (one third of the world's population) infected with the TB bacillus (having latent TB infection, or LTBI). Five to ten percent of the people who are infected with TB (but who are not infected with HIV) become sick or infectious at some time during their life. The epidemics of HIV/AIDS and multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) have also impacted on the spread of TB. Tuberculosis is the single most common opportunistic infection for people with HIV. Thus, TB is a major cause of death in people who are HIV positive. It accounts for about 11% of AIDS deaths worldwide. If TB control measures are not further strengthened and present trends continue, it is estimated that between the year 2000 and the year 2020: approximately 1 billion people will be newly infected with the TB bacillus; 150 million people will get sick with active TB disease; and 36 million people will die from TB disease.¹
2. During 2002, a total of 15,078 TB cases were reported to the CDC, representing a 5.7% decline from 2001, a 43.5% decline from the 1992 peak of the TB resurgence (26,673), and the lowest recorded TB rate in the United States since reporting began in 1953. Declines have occurred since 1992 in all age groups, racial/ethnic populations, and regions of the United States.² Los Angeles County (LAC) was still the County with the highest number of TB cases in California for the year 2002. It accounted for 32.3% of the TB cases in California (3,169 cases provisional data)³ and 6.8% of the TB cases in the United States.
3. During 2002, there were 1,025 TB cases confirmed in LAC. This represents a 2.0% decrease in TB cases from 2001 (1,046 cases) and an overall 53.4% decrease since the peak of 1992 (2,198 cases). Similar to the whole nation, this was the tenth year of decline since 1992. The average annual percent decline from 1992 to 2002 was 7.3%.
4. In Los Angeles County during 2002, there was a greater number of TB cases diagnosed in males (622 cases, 60.7%) than in females (403 cases, 39.3%).⁴
5. The largest number of TB cases was found among the 65 and over age group with 251 cases (24.5%), followed by the 15-34 year age group with 234 cases (22.8%), the 45-54 year old age group with 188 cases (18.3%), the 35-44 year old age group with 175 cases (17.1%), and the 55-64 year old age group with 124 cases (12.1%). Compared to 2001, there was an increase in the proportion of TB cases in 2002 for the following age groups: 0-14, 35-44, 45-54, and 65 and older respectively.
6. The racial/ethnic breakdown of TB cases reported in 2002 was as follows: 486 (47.4%) Hispanic, 364 (35.5%) Asian/ Pacific Islander, 103 (10.0%) African American, 71 (6.9%) non-Hispanic White, and 1 (0.1%) Native American.
7. During 2002, 78.2% (802) of the 1,025 total TB cases occurred in the foreign-born population. Of the 802 foreign-born cases, 285 (35.5%) were from Mexico, 151 (18.8%) from the Philippines, 60 (7.5%), from Vietnam, 50 (6.2%) from South Korea, 48 (6.0%) from China, 46 (5.7%) from El Salvador, 31 (3.9%) from Guatemala, 16 (2.0%) from Honduras 15 (1.9%) from India, 9 (1.1%) from Peru. Among the 802 foreign-born TB cases in 2002, 776 (96.8%) had date of arrival in the U.S. identified. Of the 776, 244 (31.4%) were recent immigrants, having immigrated to the U.S. fewer than three years ago.
8. In 2002, 77 (7.5%) TB cases were HIV co-infected; of these 77, 60 (77.9%) were male. Among all HIV-infected TB cases, 46 (59.7%) were Hispanic, 20 (26.0%) were African American, 7 (9.1%) were Asian/Pacific Islander, and 4 (5.2%) were non-Hispanic White. Forty-eight (62.3%) of the HIV co-infected cases were in the 25-44 year old age group, and 24 (31.2%) in the 45-64 year old age group.
9. Seventy-seven (7.5%) of the 1,025 TB cases were reported as homeless in 2002; 65 (84.4%) of these were male. Among all homeless TB cases, 46 (59.7%) were Hispanic, 22 (28.6%) were African American, 5 (6.5 %) were non-Hispanic White, and 4 (5.2%) were Asian/ Pacific Islander. Twenty-two (28.6%) of the homeless TB cases were in both 35-44 and 45-54 year old age groups, 15 (19.5%) were in the 15-34 year old age group, and 13 (16.9%) were in the 55-64 year old age group.
10. Eight hundred fifteen cases (79.5%) were pulmonary TB, and the remaining 210 cases (20.5%) had extra-pulmonary TB only.

1. Tuberculosis Fact Sheet No. 104, August 2002, Website, <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/who104/index.htm>

2. MMWR Weekly, 52(11): 217; March 21, 2003. CDC Website, <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5111a1.htm>

3. Tuberculosis Control Branch, California Department of Health Services. <http://www.applications.dhs.ca.gov/pressreleases/store/pressreleases/02-09.html>

4. Epidemiology Services, TB Control Program, Department of Health Services, Los Angeles County. Tuberculosis Epidemiology Assessment (TEAM) Report 2002; Volume 2003.